

REMARKS

Claims 40-95 are pending, with claims 40, 47, 55, 66, 73, 81 and 89 being independent. Claims 40, 47, 49, 55, 57, 66, 73, 81 and 89 have been amended to more particularly recite that the signals applied to a gate electrode of a transistor are "digital signals". No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 40-95 are rejected as unpatentable over Forrest (U.S. Patent No. 6,310,360) in view of Arai (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,272).

With respect to claim 40 and its dependent claims, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither Forrest, Arai, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests applying digital signals to the gate electrode of a transistor that is electrically connected to an electroluminescent element that employs triplet excitation. As has been noted in applicant's prior response, digitally driving the transistor allows for a reduction in the operating voltage of the EL element relative to an EL element that is driven in using analog signals such as those used by Forrest and Arai.

The rejection appears to concede that Arai's system uses analog drive signals, which applicant also believes to be the case. For example, as was noted in applicant's prior response, Fig. 6 of Arai shows an analog arrangement in which the gate of a current control transistor 605 that is connected to an organic EL element 606 is connected to Vdd through a capacitor 607 and is also connected to the drain of a transistor 604 that has its source connected to a line 601 on which a picture signal is provided. In this arrangement, instead of a digital signal, a variety of analog voltages are provided to the gate of the current control transistor 605.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 40 and its dependent claims should be withdrawn.

Like claim 40, each of independent claims 47, 55, 66, 73, 81 and 89 recites applying digital signals to the gate electrode of a transistor that is electrically connected to an electroluminescent element. Accordingly, each of these claims is believed to be allowable over Forrest and Arai for at least the reasons presented above.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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The fee in the amount of \$120 in payment of the one-month extension of time fee is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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